



Recycling on the increase at multi-family properties!

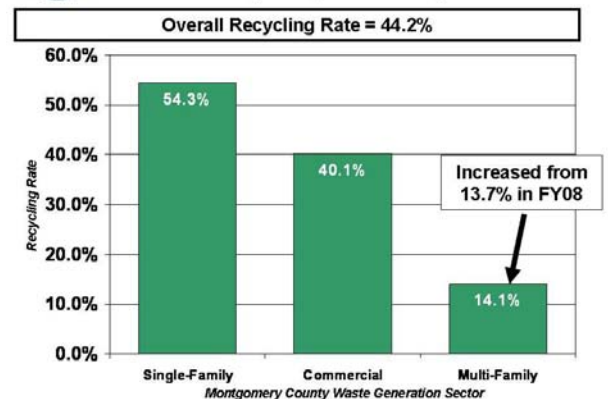
The Division of Solid Waste Services' multi-family recycling specialists, Paul Golder and Jim Corcoran, visit multi-family properties throughout the county every day, and more and more, they are commenting on the progress they see regarding recycling—recycling containers full of recyclable materials with little contamination, increasing recycling capacity and decreasing trash capacity, well-labeled collection areas, innovative ways to educate residents, you name it! And, the data supports their observations. Recycling achievement at Montgomery County multi-family properties has steadily increased, and in FY09 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009), the multi-family recycling rate increased to 14.1 percent. The overall FY09 recycling rate for the County was 44.2 percent.

While 14.1 percent is still a long way from the County's 50 percent recycling goal, we are headed in the right direction. Of the 605 annual multi-family recycling reports received for calendar year 2008, more than half documented increased recycling rates over the previous year. And, 38 properties reported recycling rates over 50 percent!

Thank you for your continued efforts to monitor and improve your on-site recycling programs and educate your residents on recycling and reducing waste—your efforts are making a difference. To look for even more ways to improve the recycling and waste reduction programs at your property, please contact the TRRAC program by calling 240-777-6446.



Montgomery County FY09 Recycling Rates by Sector



Looking for new ways to encourage residents to attend events?

Ms. Joyce Siegel, a resident at The Forum Condominium in Rockville, organized a recycling event for her condominium. In February, a representative from the TRRAC team set up a table in the lobby to distribute apartment-sized recycling bins, gave a presentation, and answered questions from residents. To incentivize residents to attend, Joyce and other residents asked local businesses to donate prizes. Were they successful? Yes!

Four nearby grocery stores donated reusable bags. A hair salon within a block of the Forum donated a gift card for a haircut worth \$70 and another for a pedicure worth \$60. Prizes also included two stainless steel water bottles and a few quality items purchased at thrift stores for less than \$1 each.

What a great way to offer prizes for the residents without having to spend much money!

EARTH DAY 2010!

What are you doing to celebrate Earth Day's 40th anniversary on April 22nd? Need some ideas?

Opportunities abound to engage your community in actions that raise awareness about environmental issues and contribute to environmental progress. Even activities that may seem to have a temporary impact, like a cleanup or a recycling or donation event, can have deeper longer term impacts on the way people make decisions in the future.

HERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE THIS EARTH DAY ONE THAT HELPS MONTGOMERY COUNTY BECOME A MORE SUSTAINABLE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY.



1 Invite your residents to the County's paper shredding and household good donation events.

The Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services is hosting two paper shredding/recycling and household good donation events on April 17 and 18—see specific times and locations in the Calendar of Events on the back page. County residents may bring up to 5 paper bags or boxes of personal paper for on-site shredding and can also donate items such as dining ware, books, tables, fans, chairs, lamps, and clothing that are in usable and working condition. Spring is a great time to unclutter and get ready for the summer.

2 Motivate residents to recycle more now.

Have a party! Invite residents to learn more about recycling and waste reduction by setting up a table in a common area to answer their questions or by hosting a presentation. The TRRAC team is happy to come to your property to answer persistent questions such as, "Does recycling really make a difference?" and "What kinds of plastic can we recycle?"

Kick off a recycling competition involving different floors, buildings, or even different properties. Encourage participation with a prize—gifts donated by local stores, compact fluorescent light bulbs (this will cut down on the property's energy bill too!), a party, or reusable shopping bags (imprinted with your property's logo). The TRRAC team can help you organize the competition. And, let the local media know about it; they may want to cover the story!

Focus on the children, with earth-friendly crafts or a recycling presentation just for them!

3 Enable residents to recycle more materials and reduce their waste.

Host a recyclable material collection event or a charity drive. The Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center accepts many recyclable materials, including electronics and textiles. There are also many organizations that accept donations for worthwhile causes, reducing the amount of material your residents place in the trash containers. For example:

BOOKS:

From the Friends of the Libraries to non-profit organizations that hold annual book drives, if you host a book drive, you can find an organization to donate the books to at montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain after selecting "Books."

CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS:

Many donation organizations will send a truck to collect a broad range of donations at your property. Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain and select "Furniture" or "Household Goods" or "Clothing & Textiles" for a list of organizations. One example is A Wider Circle, which accepts most furniture items, including beds (mattresses, box springs and frames), as long as the items are in good condition. The program provides furniture and other home items to families to help them lift themselves out of poverty.

SHOES:

The Soles4Souls shoe donation program accepts gently worn shoes and donates them to people in need worldwide. One pair of shoes is currently donated every 9 seconds. To host a shoe drive, visit soles4souls.org and click on "Get Involved" and then "Host a shoe drive". Soles4Souls will send collection boxes and brochures; after your drive, you ship the collected shoes to a nearby warehouse.

ELECTRONICS, USABLE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND UNWANTED TEXTILES:

These items can be recycled or offered to those in need by dropping them off at the County's Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center located at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood. If you collect a large amount of material on behalf of your residents, please call 240-777-6560 before dropping the material off to request permission and coordinate with the Transfer Station staff.

STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL EVENT:

Choose one organization to receive your donations, and call them to discuss the details of how the drive will work and what materials are acceptable. Your space may be limited, and this will help avoid confusion, from what is acceptable to where the material is going. If you want to hold multiple drives, schedule them periodically throughout the year.

Donation drives can run continuously for weeks, or you can line up volunteers to staff a donation area for a few hours each weekend. If you coordinate a drive where residents can drop off their items over several weeks before a collection, identify the locations where residents will place their items as well as the locations where you will store the items until the end of the drive. If the event involves bringing in a collection truck on an evening or weekend, identify a good location in your parking lot and determine if resident parking will be temporarily impacted.

The Blair Apartments in Silver Spring have held many events, from coat drives and toy drives to a FREE-cycling Book Drive, where tables were set up in the lobbies for residents to drop off and pick up books. Mary Price, Community Director at The Blairs, oversees the concierge team and coordinates the donation drives and other events. Ms. Price reported that residents have been eager and happy to make donations. **“It is best to provide small containers for donations and have a volunteer regularly transport the items to another location when the containers begin to fill up,”** said Ms. Price.

Let your residents know about the event, early and often.

Conduct the drive. **“For properties that do not have an on-site manager, it may be necessary to find someone willing to monitor during the collection event. Drives work best when a volunteer can oversee the event and keep track of the donations,”** offered Ms. Price.

Let your residents know how much material was collected. Follow up after the event lets those who donated appreciate the full impact of the drive, and it may encourage those who did not participate to contribute in the future.

Finally, to see an extensive list of scheduled events in Montgomery County in celebration of Earth Day, visit Montgomery County's Volunteer Center's website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/Volunteer/earthday.asp.

Happy Earth Day!

Opportunities disguised as challenges

When Bozzuto Management arrived at The Fenestra at Rockville Town Center in August 2009, they were greeted by numerous challenges. One challenge was something positive disguised as a problem: the residents were recycling a lot. Consequently, the recycling containers overflowed regularly, and the residents were complaining. The Fenestra also faced a common challenge for apartment buildings that share garages with retail stores—distinguishing the solid waste collection containers for the apartments from those for the businesses. The stores were using the Fenestra's recycling containers and the Fenestra's residents and staff were using the recycling containers for the stores, and the recycling containers were overflowing. It was difficult to determine which containers were contracted to the Fenestra, who was generating the recyclable materials and what to do to adjust the recycling collection capacity to accommodate the materials generated by the Fenestra.

SOLUTIONS!

The management team, led by Property Manager Kelly Jones, purchased larger (90-gallon) recycling containers for mixed paper and commingled materials and placed them in each trash room on every floor. They converted existing containers into recycling containers for scrap metal and placed one in each trash room. Not only are the containers now adequate for the amount of materials recycled, but the property is now in compliance with recycling regulations.

To address the collection areas in the garage, the management team spoke to the businesses and reviewed their recycling contract. The Fenestra revised their contract with their recycling collection company to add a two-cubic yard mixed paper recycling dumpster and a two-cubic yard commingled materials recycling dumpster for each of the four collection sites. They clearly labeled their dumpsters with the apartment's name on the front so everyone would know that the containers were only to be used by Fenestra staff and residents.

Now, the recyclable material from the property is correctly being recycled, and the management team is monitoring the situation to identify opportunities to reduce the trash capacity and collection costs. And, the residents see a management company that promptly dealt with their concerns and improved a green element of the property—its recycling program.



The Fenestra Management and Maintenance Team



April 2010

RECYCLE MORE NOW!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Multi-Family Recycling Program
Contact: Lauren Kuhn
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Office: 240.777.6446
TTY: 240.777.6442
Fax: 240.777.6465
Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
E-mail: lauren.kuhn@montgomerycountymd.gov

County Transfer Station..... 240.777.6560
County Recycling Center..... 301.417.1433

To receive this newsletter electronically, simply subscribe at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.
This information is available in an alternative format by calling Lauren Kuhn at 240-777-6446.

 Printed on recycled and recyclable paper

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 17, 2010

PAPER SHREDDING/RECYCLING AND HOUSEHOLD GOOD DONATION

10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Ridge Road Recreational Park
Picnic Shelter Parking Lot
21155 Frederick Road
Germantown, MD 20876

Sunday, April 18, 2010

PAPER SHREDDING/RECYCLING AND HOUSEHOLD GOOD DONATION

10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Wheaton Regional Park
Carousel Parking Lot
2002 Shorefield Road
Wheaton, MD 20902

Sunday, April 18, 2010

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Paint Branch High School
14121 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Thursday, April 22, 2010

EARTH DAY

Look for special events county-wide or host your own event!

Saturday, May 22, 2010

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Westland Middle School
5511 Massachusetts Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20816

May 24-28, 2010

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING AWARENESS WEEK

In recognition of multi-family properties, businesses, schools, organizations, and individuals that meet and exceed the County's recycling requirements.

Saturday, June 12, 2010

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Silver Spring International Middle School
313 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

For information about these events, call 240-777-6446
or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.